



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

November 13, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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Re: In the Matter of

<i>Connect America Fund</i>)	WC Docket No. 10-90
<i>A National Broadband</i>)	GN Docket No. 09-51
<i>Plan For Our Future</i>)	
<i>Establishing Just and</i>)	WC Docket No. 07-135
<i>Reasonable Rates for</i>)	
<i>Local Exchange Carriers</i>)	
<i>High-Cost Universal</i>)	WC Docket No. 05-337
<i>Service Support</i>)	
<i>Developing a Unified</i>)	CC Docket No. 01-92
<i>Intercarrier</i>)	
<i>Compensation Regime</i>)	
<i>Federal-State Joint</i>)	CC Docket No. 96-45
<i>Board on Universal</i>)	
<i>Service</i>)	
<i>Lifeline and Link-Up</i>)	WC Docket No. 03-109
<i>Universal Service</i>)	
<i>Reform - Mobility Fund</i>)	WT Docket No. 10-208

**National Congress of American Indians Adopts Resolution# SAC-12-019
*Request that the Federal Communications Commission Uphold the Tribal
Government Engagement Obligation Provisions for Telecommunications
Providers Serving Tribal Lands***

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

On October 26, 2012, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) adopted Resolution# SAC-12-019, *Request that the Federal Communications Commission Uphold the Tribal Government Engagement Obligation Provisions for Telecommunications Providers Serving Tribal Lands*. This action was taken by tribal leaders from across the United States during the Seventh General Assembly at NCAI's 69th Annual Convention in Sacramento, California.

Resolution# SAC-12-019 is attached hereto and respectfully submitted under WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., and supports the Tribal Government Engagement Obligation Provisions set forth in the *Further Guidance on Tribal Government Engagement Obligation Provisions of the Connect America Fund* ("Tribal

Engagement Provisions'). This *Further Guidance* was released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on July 19, 2012 by Public Notice, and was developed as a result of the Connect America Fund Order by the FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy (FCC-ONAP) in coordination with the FCC's Wireline Competition and Wireless Telecommunications Bureaus.

NCAI, as the largest, oldest, and most representative congress of American Indians and Alaska Natives, urges the FCC to uphold the Tribal Engagement Provisions, and to deny any current and future Petitions for Reconsideration that would rescind or have the effect of rescinding these provisions.

Many parts of Indian Country lack broadband connectivity and even basic analog services are absent from tribal lands. The Tribal Engagement Provisions were developed by the FCC through recommendations voiced by tribal governments and national tribal organizations in numerous FCC Docket filings and the National Broadband Plan. Recognizing the vast Digital Divide that exists in Indian Country the FCC developed the Tribal Engagement Provisions with the intent of improving the deployment of telecommunications services on tribal lands.

Any rescission of the Tribal Engagement Provisions would be an unfortunate set-back in the progress needed to bring digital communications to this country's least connected peoples and lands. We are hopeful that the FCC will uphold its commitment to Indian Country by protecting rules and regulations that hold telecommunications carriers accountable and advance our common interests – to ensure availability of high speed broadband technologies and services throughout the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jefferson Keel".

Jefferson Keel
President, NCAI

Encl.: NCAI Resolution# SAC-12-019 *Request that the Federal Communications Commission Uphold the Tribal Government Engagement Obligation Provisions for Telecommunications Providers Serving Tribal Lands*

Cc. Geoffrey Blackwell
Chief, Office of Native Affairs and Policy
Federal Communications Commission